

Ways to Improve Screening Rates in Your Community

GOAL:

***Screen 100% Of Children Once by 18 Months of Age and Twice by 36 Months of Age
(Tests should be at least 12 months apart)***

What you can do in your community to work toward this goal:

With parents:

- Inform your community that lead screening is a covered benefit by all insurance companies based in Rhode Island. If members of your community are not insured, refer them to the RItE Care Information line (401-462-5300).
- Inform your constituents about no cost lead screening for uninsured children under age six, by calling St. Joseph's Hospital (401-456-4152) or Hasbro Children's Hospital (401-444-3851).
- Encourage parents to ask their child's doctor about the lead screening test, the result, and what to do about it.
- Encourage parents to call the Rhode Island Department of Health's Family Health Information Line (1-800-942-7434) for more information about lead poisoning and lead screening.

With schools, day care centers, employers, pediatric practices:

- Work with day care centers and other early childhood programs to ensure that documentation of lead screening is in each child's file upon enrollment.
- Ensure that pediatric practices in your community have the Department of Health's Lead Screening Guidelines poster visible in their exam rooms and/or waiting rooms.
- Work with schools and early childhood programs to inform parents about screening their young children at least once a year.
- Assign an individual or entity in your community to promote lead screening.
- Identify local agencies who work with children (WIC, Family Outreach Program, Head Start, Early Intervention, Child Outreach, parents organizations, etc.) and make them part of your network to promote lead screening.
- Encourage employers to hold "Health Days" or health fairs for their employees to inform them about lead screening and other child health programs.
- Ask churches, other faith organizations, and community-based organizations to inform their groups about lead screening for young children.

With officials and authorities:

- Use lead screening data included in this report when applying for federal grants and formulating plans.
- Visit the Rhode Island Department of Health's Lead web page at www.health.ri.gov/lead for additional information, lead poisoning data, or the most recent version of the Lead Screening Guidelines.

Call the Family Health Information Line at 1-800-942-7434 for assistance in any of the above efforts to improve lead screening.

Contact the Lead Program's Outreach and Education Coordinator, Ruth Lindberg, at 401-222-7681 or RuthL@doh.state.ri.us for a training or workshop about lead screening and how to prevent lead poisoning.